



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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### H. M. WARREN HEADS NATIONWIDE RODENT CONTROL PROGRAM AS FOOD SAVER

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug today announced that Hamilton M. Warren, vice-president of the National Carbon Company of New York, had accepted the chairmanship of a national committee which will promote a nationwide program to exterminate rats in every community of 10,000 or more as an aid to the Nation's food conservation program.

The committee which Mr. Warren will head will be organized immediately, Secretary Krug said, with the aid of citizens groups, public organizations, and industrial organizations primarily interested in rat control. It will employ "Feed People--Not Rats" as the central slogan of the drive which will reach its climax in the early spring.

"Food eaten or contaminated by rats constitutes one of the major sources of waste and economic loss that can be readily stopped through the united efforts of all citizens," said Secretary Krug. "The problem facing Mr. Warren and his committee is essentially one of showing people how to save food and money by barring rats from their homes and by preventing wasteful and rat-feeding practices in eating places, food handling establishments, and city garbage disposal organizations."

Mr. Warren has agreed to assist Secretary Krug by spearheading an intensive anti-rat campaign drive during the next three months to arouse public interest to the point where effective rat control will be started and maintained among all handlers and consumers of food. Staff members of the Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical assistance to Mr. Warren.

Mr. Warren long prominent in the advertising business, is a member of the technical committee of the Advertising Research Foundation, was formerly a member of the War Advertising Council and a director of the Association of National Advertisers.

Farmers have already been alerted to their part of the problem through a national rural rat control campaign, cooperatively promoted by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. The food thus saved from destruction by country rats will serve merely to fatten city rats unless food handlers and food consumers in all cities and towns are organized to carry their share of the anti-rat campaign, the Secretary pointed out.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has estimated that rats in the United States annually destroy or damage over 200 million bushels of cereals and cereal products. At present prices this is worth one-half billion dollars. Another half billion dollars of loss is chargeable to rats through destruction or damage of other foods and manufactured articles and transmission to man of several costly diseases, including the dread typhus and plague. The total over-all damage done by rats will mount to \$2,000,000,000 annually.

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